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ABSTRACT

This paper describes a study on adolescents' attitudes and perceptions of the grief process. The Adolescent Grief Knowledge Survey was administered to middle and high school students (N=164) to determine whether they knew: the definition of grief, the stages of grief, what can cause grief, and how long the grief process can last. Each survey was ranked with a score ranging from 0 to 4 according to the number of "yes" responses. Percentages of "yes" responses were calculated for each sex, race, and age. The mean score for each sex was compared to the mean scores for each race and age group of the same sex. A correlation coefficient was calculated for the relationship between age and mean scores because of the appearance of a strong positive correlation. It was determined that the adolescents who participated had a good understanding of the definition of grief and its causes. The findings suggest that these adolescents did not possess enough knowledge of the grief process to deal with loss in a healthy fashion, and that the younger adolescents were especially vulnerable. It is recommended that counselors enhance their skills in grief counseling and that grief education be added to health curriculums of schools. Appendix A is the Survey. (Contains 36 references.) (JDM)

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UNIVERSITY OF LAVERNE

AN INVESTIGATION OF ADOLESCENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE GRIEF PROCESS

A PAPER SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
MASTER OF SCIENCE

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Abstract

AN INVESTIGATION OF ADOLESCENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE GRIEF PROCESS

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UNIVERSITY OF LAVERNE – 1999

Adolescents are becoming more exposed to grief causing events. However, most adolescents are not equipped to handle the process of grief. Counselors need to educate themselves on the problem, and counselors need to use their newfound knowledge to educate adolescents. In this way, adolescents will become more skillful in coping with grief. The purpose of this study was to:

- Determine if adolescents know what grief is
- Determine if adolescents know about the stages of grief
- Determine if adolescents know what can cause grief
- Determine if adolescents know how long grief can last

Subjects were 164 adolescents from local middle and high schools. The subjects were asked to complete an Adolescent Grief Knowledge Survey. The survey asked for the subjects grade, sex, race, and age. It also asked the following questions about grief:

- Do you know what the definition of grief is?
- Do you know what the stages of grief are?
- Do you know what can cause grief?
- Do you have an idea of how long grief should last?

Each survey as ranked with a score ranging from 0 to 4 according to the number of "yes" responses. Percentages of "yes" responses were calculated for each sex, race and age. The mean score for each sex was compared to mean scores for each race and age group of the same sex. 2-tailed T-tests were conducted for scores that that were not close to the mean. This was done to see if the difference was significant. A correlation co-efficient was calculated for the relationship between age and mean scores because of the appearance of a strong positive correlation.

It was determined that the adolescents that participated had a good understanding of the definition of grief and its causes. However, there was a severe lack of understanding of the stages of grief and how long grief can last. It is recommended that more research be conducted on this issue, counselors enhance their skills in grief counseling, and grief education be added to health curriculums of schools.

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CHAPTER I

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Adolescents are becoming more exposed to grief causing events. However, most adolescents are not equipped to handle the process of grief. Counselors need to educate themselves on the problem, and counselors need to use their newfound knowledge to educate adolescents. In this way, adolescents will become more skillful in coping with grief.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of this study:

First, determine if adolescents know what grief is.

Second, determine if adolescents know about stages of grief.

Third, determine if adolescents know what can cause grief.

Fourth, determine if adolescents know how long grief can last.

NEED OF THIS STUDY

Each year many people die due to violence, accidents, or natural causes. In most cases, adolescents are affected by these deaths. This study is important because it attempts to examine if adolescents are prepared to face grief. The findings of this study will help educators determine if their efforts to help grieving teens are sufficient, and it will help educators determine if grief education should be added to the cirriculum on their campuses.

SETTING

This study included adolescent responses to a grief survey that was written by the author (SEE APPENDIX 'A'). The adolescents were students from two (2) Junior High Schools and two (2) High Schools in Bakersfield, California.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND PROCEDURES

1. Review the appropriate literature related to teenage grief.
2. Meet with the director of intervention for permission to conduct the study.
3. Design an appropriate questionnaire for students.
4. Field-test the questionnaire to check for clarity and to gauge the time necessary for completion.
5. Make necessary revisions.
6. Administer questionnaire to participating adolescents.
7. Manually compile data from questionnaire and present it using frequencies and percentages.
8. Analyze the data and use appropriate statistical tests to determine the level of significance of the results.
9. Interpret the findings in relation to the initial questions asked.
10. Draw conclusions and make recommendations based on findings.
11. Make results available to the principals of the selected school sites.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. Since only adolescents from selected school sites will receive the questionnaire, the study will not reflect the entire high school and middle school adolescent populations.
2. Since the study was conducted under a time constraint, the scope and depth of the study is limited.
3. Because of the amount of research available on the topic, the study is limited due to the authors inability to absorb all the information available to him.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. Grief – The emotional process that follows an important loss.
2. Adolescents – Young people between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age.
3. Psychopathology – Emotional disorders.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

INTRODUCTION

By the time a person reaches adolescence, it is very likely that that person will have been exposed to death (Morin and Welsh, 1996). In fact, it is estimated that approximately 94,000 young people between infancy and 24 years of age die every year (O'Brien, 1986). It is very difficult for counselors to help students face the realities of life because students have less skill and coping ability than adults do, but they have the same feelings and needs (Glass, Jr., 1991). Students need to be taught the facts concerning death and loss, helped to increase their capacity to deal with the prospect of their own death, and helped to define their ethical values concerning death (Schvaneveldt, 1982).

BODY

Approximately 94,000 young people between the ages of infancy and 24 years of age die each year (Shirley O'Brien, 1986). Children are increasingly being exposed to death on television as well (Aspinal, 1996). By the time an individual reaches adolescents, he or she has probably experienced death (Morin and Welsh, 1996). It is estimated that 90% of junior and senior high school students have experienced a loss that was associated with death, another 40% have dealt with the death of a close friend, and 20% have witnessed a death (Kandt, 1994).

In one study, 87% of the participants had experienced the death of a peer, and 20%

had more than one experience with the death of a peer (Schachter, 1991-1992). It is estimated that one out of every six children will lose a parent by his or her 18th birthday (Blass, 1991), (Miles and Demi, 1991-1992). It is further estimated that one out of 750 high school students in the United States dies each day. (Carson and Others, 1994-1995). Adolescents face other significant losses on a frequent basis, and these losses include divorce, mourning a pet dying, losing a boyfriend or girlfriend, having a learning disability, being abused, or being incapacitated (Lenhardt, 1997), Kaczmarek and Backlund, 1991), (Brown and Others, 1996).

Families and schools are having to help young people deal with grief on an increasingly regular basis, and because children are seen as resilient, their grief needs go unmet (Lenhardt, 1997). Children experience the same losses as adults, but children do not have the maturity to deal with those losses (Lenhardt, 1997). Researchers have found that there is little research dedicated to the treatment of adolescents that are battling grief, and this lack of attention to adolescent grief causes adolescent's grief to be more intensified (Alexander and Harman, 1988), (Lenhardt, 1997), (Kaczmarek and Backlund, 1991). In one school district, 42% of the schools reported as having grief counseling, 67% of those schools offered it as a result of a sudden death, 81% of the 42% reported that the grief counseling was ongoing, and 68% of the 42% said that the counseling was being provided by the school counselor (Carson and Others, 1994-1995).

Adolescence is a time of close attachments, but adolescent loss is often minimized by adults, so adolescents feel isolated, and their grief is stronger (Carson and Others, 1994-1995), (Kaczmarek and Backlund, 1991). When adolescent grieve, their behavior, school work, and attendance usually suffer, and the adolescent becomes depressed or withdrawn (Glass, Jr., 1991), Kaczmarek and Backlund, 1991). Adolescents often feel helpless and frightened after a significant loss (Glass, Jr., 1991). Adolescents will vacillate quickly from

one stage to another, and their grief will be more obvious in their behavior (Kandt, 1994). Adolescents grieve longer than adults do, and this is because death goes against the adolescents thoughts of the future (Kandt, 1994). Longer grief for adolescents can be attributed to the fact that many adolescents feel forgotten or guilty after a significant person is lost (Shirley O'Brien, 1986).

Unresolved grief as an adolescent has been found to be the source of psychopathology in some adults (Balk, 1983), (Ross, 1988). May adolescents report that bereavement literature mainly focuses on death of a child or spouse, but nothing on the death of a friend, loss of a boyfriend or girlfriend, or other losses that do not involve death (Balk, 1983). Adolescents are especially vulnerable because their ego is still evolving and their coping skills are still developing (Koczmarek and Backlund, 1991).

Many adolescents have been known to still be struggling through the grieving process a few years after the death of a peer (John O'Brien, 1991). This is because a peer's death is in direct conflict with the adolescents feeling of immortality (John O'Brien, 1991). The death of a parent and the subsequent designation of surrogate parent threatens an adolescents development of independence. In one study, researchers found that 76% of the participants were unable to talk about the death of a sibling, and they found that the death impinged on the adolescents emotional responses, parental relationships, peer relations, grades, religious beliefs, and the ability to talk about death (John O'Brien, 1991). Researchers have also found that suicide results in a different type of mourning process (John O'Brien, 1991).

Adolescents are reported to have more intense shock, disbelief, and a sense of loss than adults, and they have been observed to possess greater anger, sleep disturbance, dream activity, and irritability (Meshot and Leitner, 1992-1993). Adolescents need to be helped to work through lost fantasies and lost realities (Kaczmarek and Backlund, 1991). Because unresolved grief has been proven to lead to psychopathology in adults, it is

imperative that psychologists and counselors push for grief education in schools (Aspinal, 1996). Grief work requires active participation on the part of the grieving person (Lenhardt, 1997). It has been found that adolescents that have social support are less depressed than adolescents that do not, and it is important to validate the grieving adolescent's loss (Lenhardt, 1997). Adolescents need to be taught about grief (Lenhardt, 1997). Adolescents need adults to teach them about death and dying so that they can work through grief (Schachter, 1991-1992).

SUMMARY

Adolescents are being faced with loss at an increasing rate. Adolescents have to deal with death, divorce, moving, pet death, losing significant others, learning disorders, and the day to day rigors of just being and adolescent. Though adolescents deal with the same kinds of losses as adults, they do not have the skill or maturity to deal with loss properly. The fact that adults often overlook adolescent loss compounds the grief of an adolescent.

Adults need to educate themselves on adolescent grief, and adults need to educate adolescents on the grief process. Counselors need to assist grieving adolescents so that the adolescents can lead productive lives.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

Subjects were 164 adolescents from local middle and high schools. Eighty-three (83) were female, and eighty-one (81) were male. The subject ages ranged from twelve (12) to eighteen (18) years of age.

- Six (6) of the females were black,
- Nineteen (19) females were white,
- Fifty-three (53) of the females were Hispanic,
- Five (5) females were a race other than the above.

There were;

- Two (2) females twelve (12) years of age,
- One (1) female thirteen (13) years of age,
- Six (6) female fourteen (14) years of age,
- Twenty-three (23) females seventeen (17) years of age,
- Five (5) females eighteen (18) years of age.

Of the males;

- Five (5) were fourteen (14) years of age,
- Twenty-three (23) were fifteen (15) years of age,
- Twenty-three (23) were sixteen (16) years of age,
- Twenty-three (23) were seventeen (17) years of age,
- Seven (7) were eighteen (18) years of age.

TASK

The subjects were asked to complete an adolescent grief knowledge survey (see appendix A). The survey asked for the subjects grade, sex, race, and age. It also asked the following questions about grief;

1) Do you know what the definition of grief is?

2) Do you know what the stages of grief are?

3) Do you know what can cause grief?

4) Do you have an idea of how long grief should last?

Each question about grief was given one point for each yes response. Yes responses for each question were also recorded.

TREATMENTS

There was no treatment given in this study.

MEASURES

Each survey was ranked with a score ranging from 0 to 4 according to the numbers of yes responses on the survey. The yes responses were tallied and the percentage of yes answers for each question were calculated.

ANALYSIS

Yes response percentages were calculated for each age group (12-18), and percentages were calculated for each racial group. Percentages were also calculated for each sex. The percentages for each sex were compared to the percentages for each race and age group of the same sex. This was done for each question.

Mean survey scores for each sex were calculated. Mean scores for each race and age group of the same sex were calculated as well. The mean score for each sex was compared to mean scores for each race and age group of the same sex. 2-tailed T-Tests were conducted for scores that were not close to the mean. This was done to see if the difference was significant. A correlation coefficient was calculated for the relationship between age and mean scores because of the appearance of a strong positive correlation.

RESULTS

For question one (1) of the survey, (Do you know what the definition of grief is?), 64% of females said yes. For question two (2) of the survey, (Do you know what the stages of grief are?), 23% of females said yes. For question three (3) of the survey, (Do you know what can cause grief?), 61% of females said yes. For question four (4) of the survey, (Do you have an idea of how long grief should last?), 17% of females said yes.

One (1) of the two (2) twelve (12) year old females answered yes to question one (1). None of the two (2) twelve (12) year old females answered yes to question two (2). One (1) of the two (2) twelve (12) year old females answered yes to question three (3). None of the two (2) twelve (12) year old females answered yes to question four (4).

Only one female in the study was thirteen (13) years of age. She answered yes to

question one (1). She answered no to question two (2). She answered yes to question three (3). She answered no to question four (4).

There were six (6) females fourteen (14) years of age that participated in the study. One (1) answered yes to question one (1). None answered yes to question two (2). One (1) answered yes to question three (3), and none answered yes to question four (4).

Twenty-three (23) females, fifteen (15) years of age participated in the survey. Fifty-seven percent (57%) of the fifteen (15) year old females answered yes to question one (1). Thirteen percent (13%) of the fifteen (15) year old females answered yes to question two (2). Fifty-two percent (52%) of the sixteen (16) year old females answered yes to question three (3), and twenty-six percent (26%) of the sixteen (16) year old females answered yes to question four (4).

There were twenty-three (23) females seventeen (17) years of age that participated in the study. Eighty-three percent (83%) of the seventeen (17) year old females answered yes to question one (1). Thirty-nine percent (39%) of seventeen (17) year old females answered yes to question two (2). Eighty-seven percent (87%) of seventeen (17) year old females answered yes to question three (3), and twenty-two percent (22%) of seventeen (17) year old females answered yes to question four (4).

There were five (5) females, eighteen (18) years of age that participated in the study. Four (4), eighteen (18) year old females answered yes to question one (1). Only one (1) female, eighteen (18) years of age answered yes to question two (2). Four (4) females, eighteen (18) years of age, answered yes to question three (3), and two (2) females, eighteen (18) years of age, answered yes to question four (4). ***SEE TABLE 1 AND TABLE 2.***

TABLE 1

FEMALE RESPONSES TO GRIEF QUESTIONS

QUESTION	% YES	% NO
(1)	64%	36%
(2)	23%	77%
(3)	61%	39%
(4)	17%	83%

TABLE 2

FEMALE RESPONSES TO GRIEF QUESTIONS BY AGE

	QUESTION (1)		QUESTION (2)		QUESTION (3)		QUESTION (4)	
AGE	% YES	% NO	% YES	% NO	% YES	% NO	% YES	% NO
12	50	50	0	100	50	50	0	100
13	100	0	0	100	100	0	0	100
14	17	83	0	100	17	83	0	100
15	57	43	13	87	52	48	4	96
16	61	39	26	74	52	48	26	74
17	83	17	39	61	87	13	22	78
18	80	20	20	80	80	20	40	60

There were fifty-five (55) Hispanic females that participated in the study. Sixty-two percent (62%) of Hispanic females answered yes to question one (1). Twenty percent (20%) of Hispanic females answered yes to question two (2). Fifty-three percent (53%) of Hispanic females answered yes to question three (3), and fifteen percent (15%) of Hispanic

females answered yes to question four (4). Eighteen (18) white females participated in the study. Seventy-two percent (72%) of white females answered yes to question one (1). Seventeen percent (17%) of white females answered yes to question two (2). Eight-three percent (83%) of white females answered yes to question three (3), and twenty-two percent (22%) of white females answered yes to question four (4).

Five (5) black females participated in the study. Three (3) of the black females answered yes to question one (1). One (1) of the black females answered yes to question two (2). Three (3) of the black females answered yes to question three (3), and one (1) of the black females answered yes to question four (4).

The other category was comprised of three (3) Indian females and two (2) Filipino females. Three (3) of these females answered yes to question one (1). Three (3) of these females answered yes to question two (2). Three (3) of these females answered yes to question three (3), and none (0) of these females answered yes to question four (4). ***SEE TABLE 3.***

TABLE 3

FEMALE RESPONSES TO GRIEF QUESTIONS BY RACE

	QUESTION (1)	**QUESTION (2)**	**QUESTION (3)**	**QUESTION (4)**
RACE	**% yes - % no**	**% yes - % no**	**% yes-% no**	**% yes-% no**
HISPANIC	62/38	20/80	53/47	15/85
BLACK	60/40	20/80	60/40	20/80
WHITE	72/28	17/83	83/17	22/78
OTHER	60/40	60/40	60/40	0/100

For question one (1), (Do you know what the definition of grief is?), seventy percent

(70%) of the males that participated answered yes. For question two (2), (Do you know what the stages of grief are?), thirty percent (30%) of the males said yes. For question three (3), (Do you know what can cause grief?), sixty-six percent (66%) of the males answered yes. For question four (4), (Do you have an idea of how long grief should last?), eighteen percent (18%) of the males answered yes. ***SEE TABLE 4.***

TABLE 4

MALE RESPONSES TO GRIEF QUESTIONS

QUESTION	% YES	% NO
(1)	70	30
(2)	30	70
(3)	66	34
(4)	18	82

The male participant's ages ranged from fourteen (14) years of age to eighteen (18) years of age. Of the males that participated, five (5) were fourteen (14) years of age. One (1) fourteen (14) year old male answered yes to question one (1). One (1) fourteen (14) year old male answered yes to question two (2). Two (2) fourteen (14) year old males answered yes to question three (3), and none (0) of the fourteen (14) year old males answered yes to question four (4).

There were twenty-three (23) fifteen (15) year old males that participated in the study. Seventy percent (70%) of the fifteen (15) year old males answered yes to question one (1). Twenty-two percent (22%) of the fifteen (15) year old males answered yes to question two (2). Seventy percent (70%) of the fifteen (15) year old males answered yes to

question three (3), and seventeen percent (17%) of the fifteen (15) year old males answered yes to question four (4).

There were twenty-three (23) males that were sixteen (16) years of age. Sixteen (16) of these males answered yes to question one (1). Five (5) sixteen (16) year old males answered yes to question two (2). Sixteen (16) sixteen year old males answered yes to question three (3), and four (4) sixteen year old males answered yes to question four (4).

There were twenty-three (23) males, seventeen (17) years of age. Nineteen (19) of the seventeen (17) year old males answered yes to question one (1). Nine (9) seventeen (17) year old males answered yes to question two (2). Fifteen (15) seventeen year old males answered yes to question three (3), and four (4) seventeen (17) year old males answered yes to question four (4).

Seven (7) eighteen (18) year old males participated in the study. Six (6) of the seven (7) answered yes to question one (1). Four (4) of the seven (7) answered yes to question two (2). Six (6) of the seven (7) answered yes to question three (3), and three (3) of the seven (7) answered yes to question four (4). ***SEE TABLE 5.***

TABLE 5

MALE RESPONSES TO GRIEF QUESTIONS BY AGE.

	QUESTION (1)		QUESTION (2)		QUESTION (3)		QUESTION (4)	
AGE	**% YES**	**% NO**	**% YES**	**% NO**	**% YES**	**% NO**	**% YES**	**% NO**
14	20	80	20	80	40	60	0	100
15	70	30	22	78	70	30	17	83
16	61	39	22	78	65	35	17	83
17	83	17	39	61	65	35	17	83
18	86	14	57	43	86	14	43	57

Thirty-five (35) Hispanic males participated in the study. Sixty-six percent of Hispanic males answered yes to question one (1). Thirty-one percent (31%) of the Hispanic males answered yes to question two (2). Sixty-six percent (66%) of the Hispanic males answered yes to question three (3), and twenty percent (20%) of the Hispanic males answered yes to question four (4).

Twenty-three (23) white males participated in the study. Seventy percent (70%) of the white males answered yes to question one (1). Thirty-nine percent (39%) of the white males answered yes to question two (2). Seventy-eight percent (78%) of white males answered yes to question three (3), and twenty-six % of white males answered yes to question four (4).

Nineteen black males participated in the study. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the black males answered yes to question one (1). Twenty-one percent (21%) of the black males answered yes to question two (2). Forty-seven percent (47%) of the black males answered yes to question three (3), and five percent (5%) of the black males answered yes to question four (4).

There were four (4) males in the study that were classified as "Other". One (1) was from the Middle East, one (1) was from Asia, one (1) from Hawaii, and one (1) did not specify. Seventy-five percent (75%) of other males answered yes to question one (1). Twenty-five percent (25%) of other males answered yes to question two (2). Seventy-five percent (75%) of other males answered yes to question three (3), and fifty percent (50%) of other males answered yes to question four (4). ***SEE TABLE 6.***

TABLE 6

MALE RESPONSES TO GRIEF QUESTIONS BY RACE.

	QUESTION (1)	**QUESTION (2)**	**QUESTION (3)**	**QUESTION (4)**
RACE	**% YES/% NO**	**% YES/% NO**	**% YES/% NO**	**% YES/% NO**
HISPANIC	66/34	31/69	66/34	20/80
WHITE	78/22	39/61	78/22	26/74
BLACK	58/42	21/79	47/53	5/95
OTHER	75/25	25/75	75/25	50/50

The surveys were given one (1) point for each yes answer to a grief question. There were four (4) points possible. Each survey was given a score from zero (0) to four (4). The surveys were then divided by sex, race and age. Mean scores for each gender were calculated. Mean scores for each race (white, black, Hispanic, and other), were calculated and compared to the mean score for that gender.

The mean score for all females was 1.66. The mean score for the two (2) twelve (12) year old females was one (1). The score for the thirteen (13) year old female was two (2). The mean score for the fourteen (14) year old females was .33. The mean score for the fifteen (15) year old females was 1.26. The mean score for the sixteen (16) year old

females was 1.695. The mean score for the seventeen (17) year old females was 2.3, and the mean score for the eighteen (18) year old females was 2.2. ***SEE TABLE 7.***

TABLE 7

MEAN SCORES FOR FEMALES BY AGE

AGE	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
SCORE	1	2	.33	1.26	1.695	2.3	2.2

The mean scores for black females was 1.67. The mean score for white females was 1.85. The mean score for Hispanic females was 1.58. The mean score for other females was 1.8. ***SEE TABLE 8.***

TABLE 8

MEAN SCORES FOR FEMALES BY RACE

RACE	BLACK	WHITE	HISPANIC	OTHER
SCORE	1.67	1.85	1.58	1.8

The mean score for all males was 1.84. The mean score for fourteen (14) year old males was .8. The mean score for fifteen (15) year old males was 1.78. The mean score for sixteen (16) year old males was 1.65. The mean score for seventeen (17) year old males was 2.04. The mean score for eighteen (18) year old males was 2.71. ***SEE TABLE 9.***

TABLE 9

MEAN SCORES FOR MALES BY AGE

AGE	14	15	16	17	18
SCORE	.8	1.78	1.65	2.04	2.71

The mean score for Hispanic males was 1.83. The mean score for white males was 2.13. The mean score for black males was 1.32. The mean score for other males was 2.2. ***SEE TABLE 10.***

TABLE 10

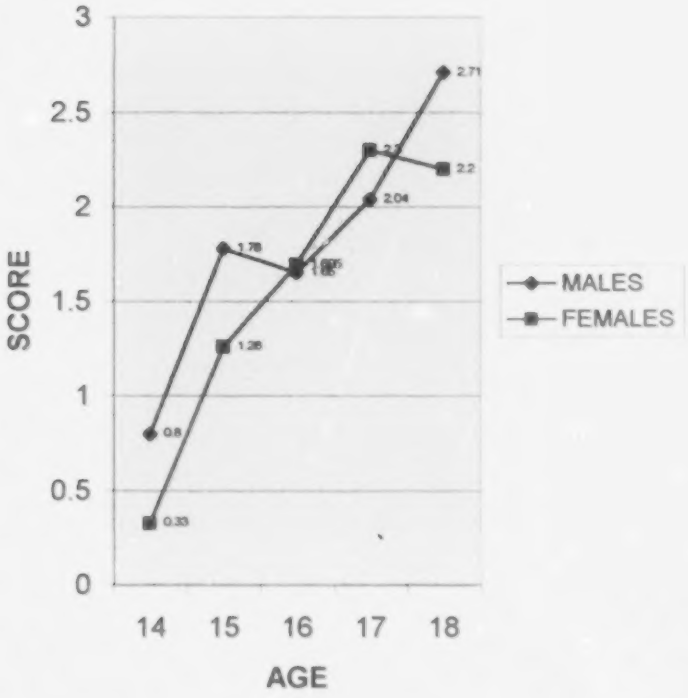
MEAN SCORES FOR MALES BY RACE

RACE	HISPANIC	WHITE	BLACK	OTHER
SCORE	1.83	2.13	1.32	2.2

For all males and females from fourteen (14) to eighteen (18), it was noticed that the mean score increased as aged increased. A correlation coefficient was calculated to see if there was a strong correlation between age and mean scores on the survey. For males, the correlation coefficient was .87. For females, the correlation coefficient was .88. A correlation coefficient of one (1) is the highest correlation that can be attained. Given this, it can be concluded that there was a strong correlation between age and mean survey scores. ***SEE FIGURE 1.***

FIGURE 1

CORRELATION GRAPH FOR AGE AND MEAN SURVEY SCORES



The mean scores for fourteen (14) year old males and females were substantially below the mean scores for males and females. The mean score for all males was 1.84, and the mean score for all females was 1.66. However, the mean scores for fourteen (14) year old males was .8, and the mean score for fourteen (14) year old females was .33. A 2-tailed T-test at a confidence level of .95 was conducted for fourteen (14) year old males and females. However, the results of the T-test indicated that the difference in mean scores for fourteen (14) year old males and females were not statistically significant. ***SEE TABLE 2.***

TABLE 11

DATA FROM T-TEST

	MEAN SCORE	T-SCORE	T-CRITICAL VALUE	D F	MEAN SCORE BY SEX
14 YR OLD MALE	.8	.047	2.00	79	1.84
14 YR OLD FEMALE	.33	.009	2.00	81	1.66

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY

CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this study was;

(1) Determine if adolescents know what the definition of grief is.

(2) Determine if adolescents know what the stages of grief are.

(3) Determine if adolescents know what can cause grief.

(4) Determine if adolescents know how long grief should last.

The null hypothesis of this study was;

(1) Adolescents do not know what the definition of grief is.

(2) Adolescents do not know what the stages of grief are.

(3) Adolescents do not know what causes grief.

(4) Adolescents do not know how long grief should last.

According to the results of the study, it appears that adolescents do not know the stages of grief. It also appears that adolescents do not know how long grief should last. It appears that point two (2) and point four (4) of the null hypothesis were supported. This conclusion can be drawn from the fact that only twenty-three percent (23%) of females and thirty percent (30%) of males responded yes to question two (2), and only seventeen percent (17%) of females and eighteen percent (18%) of males answered yes to question four (4) of the survey.

However, it appears that many adolescents do know what grief is, and many adolescents do know what causes grief. This suggests that the null hypothesis failed on point one (1) and point three (3). This conclusion can be drawn from the fact that sixty-four percent (64%) of females and seventy percent (70%) of males answered yes to question one (1), and sixty-one percent (61%) of females and sixty-six percent (66%) of males answered yes to question three (3).

The strong correlation between age and mean score on the survey, (.88 for females and .87 for males), further suggests a lack of knowledge of the grief process on the part of younger adolescents.

IMPLICATIONS

Many implications can be taken from this study, but the main implications are the facts that these adolescents, as a whole, did not posses enough knowledge of the grief process to deal with loss in a healthy fashion, and younger adolescents were especially vulnerable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The researcher recommends:

(1) Further research be conducted in the area of grief.

(2) More be written about the subject of grief.

(3) Counselors enhance their knowledge base and skill level in the area of grief.

(4) Counselors become more active in raising the level of awareness of the ramifications of disenfranchised adolescent grief.

(5) Educators consider adding grief education to the health curriculum of their respective educational institutions.

(APPENDIX A)

ADOLESCENT GRIEF KNOWLEDGE SURVEY

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GRADE: (indicate) _____

SEX: (circle one) **MALE** **FEMALE**

RACE: (indicate) _____

AGE: (indicate) _____

==========

1) Do you know what the definition of grief is?

(choose one) Yes No

2) Do you know what the stages of grief are?

(choose one) Yes No

3) Do you know what can cause grief?

(choose one) Yes No

4) Do you have an idea of how long grief should last?

(choose one) Yes No

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